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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the center of our joy, guide our lawmakers through this day by Your higher wisdom. Give them the clarity of thinking needed to solve the complex problems of our time. As they depend on Your words and guidance, give them peace that comes from knowing they are instruments of Your glory. Lord, help them never to be silent in the presence of injustice or impurity. Replace fear with faith, falsehood with truth, and greed with justice.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 2 hours. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 10 and S.J. Res. 24, both resolutions regarding balanced budget amendments. The Republican leader and I, yesterday, arrived at an agreement that we would have 8 hours of debate on this matter, and I think it should be a good debate. People have been looking forward to this debate for some time. Some are more interested than others, and this should give them ample time to say whatever they feel about this issue that is ripe for debate in the Senate and certainly the votes we will have tomorrow morning.

The Senate will recess this afternoon from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1633

Mr. REID. Madam President, H.R. 1633 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1633) to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national

ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. REID. Madam President, in the last month, Republican leaders have repeated this mantra over and over: We support a payroll tax cut for working families. But we have not seen any proof of this yet. It has only been talk.

Senate Republicans have twice voted down their own payroll tax proposal, and House Republicans were unable to bring their plan to a vote for weeks. We understand they are going to have a run at that tonight.

I have served in the House of Representatives. When I served in the House of Representatives, no one would ever consider pushing something through with a majority of the majority. When I served there, Bob Michel was the Republican leader, Tip O'Neill was the Speaker, Jim Wright was the majority leader and the Speaker, and they always worked together on a bipartisan basis to get legislation passed. It is only a new thing that now the Republicans are saying: We are not going to pass anything unless we can do it on our own. That is unfortunate.

I spoke to the Speaker yesterday. I have the highest regard for him. I consider him a friend. But I said to him, as seriously as I could, we are not going to finish the work for our country this year unless we work together. You cannot pass anything in the House unless you get Democratic votes because anything you pass with strictly Republican votes fails over here; and over

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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